CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   The method of discovering policies in an abstracted routing element comprising:

tapping ingress and egress streams at a plurality of connections to the element,

filtering ingress and egress streams at the taps,

collecting filtered ingress and egress streams from the taps,

10   correlating the collected ingress and egress information, and

discovering policies used in the abstracted routing element from the correlated ingress and egress information.

2.   The method of Claim 1 where the abstracted routing element is an

15   Autonomous System.

3.   The method of Claim 1 where the abstracted routing element is a combination of Autonomous Systems and networks.

20   4.   The method of Claim 1 where the policies discovered include routing policies.

5.   The method of Claim 4 where routing policies are discovered by comparing prefixes advertised at ingress points with prefixes disseminated at egress points.

25   6.   The method of Claim 1 where the policies discovered include damping policies.

7.   The method of Claim 6 where damping policies are discovered by the steps of:

analyzing correlated ingress data to detect flapping at an ingress node, and

30   comparing correlated ingress data indicating flapping with egress data to discover damping policies.

8.   The method of Claim 1 further including the step of:

comparing discovered policies with predetermined policies.

9.   The method of Claim 8 where discovered routing policies are compared with predetermined routing policies.

5   10.   The method of Claim 8 where discovered damping policies are compared with predetermined damping policies.

11.   The method of Claim 1 further including access control providing limited access to discovered policies based on predetermined access classes.

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12.   The method of Claim 8 further including access control providing limited access to the comparison of discovered policies with predetermined policies based on predetermined access classes.